



Northern California Office  
2955 Kerner Blvd., 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
San Rafael, CA 94901  
Phone: 415/456-9980  
Fax: 415/456-2146

Central California Office  
3122 N. Millbrook, Suite F  
Fresno, CA 93703  
Phone: 559/241-6160  
Fax: 559/241-6161

The House At San Quentin  
2 Main Street  
San Quentin, CA 94964  
Phone: 415/456-4200

November 12, 2004

Ms. Cher Daniels  
Supervising Environmental Planner  
California Department of Corrections  
Facilities Management Division  
501 J Street, Room 3004  
Sacramento, CA

Dear Ms. Daniels:

I am writing with regard to the proposed condemned inmate complex project at San Quentin State Prison and the possible environmental impact of the project.

I live and work in Marin County. Although I was unable to attend the public hearing about this matter, I read and heard feedback that most comments related to the "look" or "aesthetics" of the proposed facility. As you may know, Marin County is one of the most beautiful counties in California, with a majority of its confines dedicated to open space and parks. There are few places one could look and see ugliness within Marin County.

That said, it is my opinion that the purpose of the new unit takes precedence over any possible blight on the physical landscape. San Quentin and the proposed new housing unit serve the San Francisco Bay Area and the entire State of California. The residents of Marin County must continue to do their part and accept responsibility for this. We have a responsibility for both this unit and the prison, and we must recognize that San Quentin is a state entity that serves all communities within the state, including Marin County.

Current death row conditions at San Quentin are unsafe and unacceptable for prisoners, staff and community members. The new unit is necessary to provide a safe environment for all concerned and this priority takes precedence over any opposition expressed about the facility's aesthetics. We must build this housing unit for safety reasons and to continue Marin County's positive contribution to public safety.

Sincerely,

*Barry Zack*  
Barry Zack

**Letter 20**

**Centerforce  
Barry Zack  
November 12, 2004**

---

- 20-1** The comment expresses support for the construction of the new CIC at SQSP and describes its role serving the entire state. This comment is acknowledged. No further response is necessary as no issues related to the environmental impacts of the project were raised.



November 11, 2004

Cher Daniels  
Supervising Environmental Planner  
Department of Corrections  
PO Box 942883  
Sacramento, CA 94283-0001

Dear Ms Daniels:

Critical Resistance submits the following comments regarding the San Quentin State Prison Condemned Inmate Complex Project Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR). Critical Resistance (CR) believes that the DEIR is insufficient and that the project should be halted until there is additional environmental review and mitigation and analysis of the "no project" alternative.

**I. The "No Project" and relocation alternatives are not adequately considered.**

CEQA Guideline 15126.6 requires an EIR to describe a range of reasonable alternatives to the project, or the location of the project, to avoid the project's significant environmental impacts. Having identified significant impacts, the CDC must analyze potential alternatives that might reduce or eliminate these impacts. The "no project" alternative is not considered in sufficient detail. The necessity of the practice of segregating condemned prisoners is not substantiated by criminological evidence and is not considered in the DEIR. Nor, does the DEIR consider the Department of Corrections stated plan to decrease its overall prisoner population by 15,000 prisoners by Mid-2005 as stated in a January 2004 Memo by then director Edward Alameida. By ceasing the segregation of condemned prisoners or carrying out the CDC's own projected population decline, the "need" for this project would be obviated.

The DEIR fails to meet the legal obligations to fully consider alternative locations. While CR does not support the construction of new prison cells at another site in the system, the DEIR does not provide any reasonable detail of the environmental impacts of a relocated

NATIONAL OFFICE 1904 FRANKLIN ST. SUITE 504 OAKLAND, CA 94612  
PHONE . 510.444.0484 FAX . 510.444.2177 EMAIL . CRNATIONAL@CRITICALRESISTANCE.ORG

NORTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE 968 ATLANTIC AVE. 1<sup>st</sup> FLOOR BROOKLYN, NY 11238  
PHONE . 718.398.2825 FAX . 718.398.2856 EMAIL . CRNE@CRITICALRESISTANCE.ORG

SOUTHERN REGIONAL OFFICE 4041 TULANE AVE. SUITE 103 NEW ORLEANS, LA 70119  
PHONE . 504.488.2994 FAX . 504.488.8578 EMAIL . CRSOUTH@CRITICALRESISTANCE.ORG

WWW.CRITICALRESISTANCE.ORG

death row. Until such time as a similarly detailed analysis of the environmental impacts of housing Death Row at another facility is completed, it is impossible to fully assess the relative negative impacts of this project at San Quentin State Prison.

Finally, the existing discussion of transferring the CIC or SQSP to other sites suggest significant and unavoidable impacts to those potential sites, but does not weigh these impacts against the potential positive impacts of closing the existing SQSP. For example, shuttering SQSP would likely have several positive impacts on light pollution, traffic, and water quality in the immediate site and throughout the Marin County region.


**II. The potential impact on stormwater and Bay water quality is not adequately considered.**

Considering the various pollutants for which the San Francisco Bay is currently water quality impaired, the DEIR does not provide an adequate discussion or evaluation of potential increase in pollutants deposited in the Bay from any new sources of stormwater runoff this project may create. A more detailed analysis of these potential impacts and a comprehensive mitigation plan are necessary before the project can be approved.

For these reasons, Critical Resistance believes that the Draft EIR is insufficient and inadequate.

Thank you for your consideration.

Truly Yours,

  
Ari Wohlfeiler  
For Critical Resistance

## Letter 21

### Critical Resistance

Ari Wohlfeiler

November 11, 2004

---

**21-1** This comment is prefatory to subsequent comments in the letter. Please refer to responses to comments 21-2 and 21-3.

**21-2** The comment requested that the No Project Alternative be evaluated in greater detail and asserts that the “need” for the project would be eliminated if statewide prison populations are reduced or CDC ceases segregating condemned inmates. The Draft EIR analysis fully complies with the requirements of CEQA. Please refer to Master Response 1.

The comment that segregating condemned inmates (presumably, from those who are not condemned, although the comment is not clear on this point) is not relevant to the impacts of the project.

Nevertheless, CDC has found that it is necessary to segregate condemned inmates from the remaining inmate population based on security risk, and to not provide this segregation would be highly irresponsible. Condemned inmates have a higher propensity toward violence, and are a substantial risk to other inmates, to correctional officers, and to the public. CDC has found that in some circumstances these inmates must be substantially isolated from other inmates. If not, other inmates, as well as correctional officers, are placed at risk of injury and death. This is not based on theory; the list of correctional officers and inmates who have been killed or seriously injured by other inmates is long. Condemned inmates have been so sentenced because they have been convicted of murder, the ultimate violent act. At existing San Quentin, condemned inmates are already housed in various facilities (all are high security through either design or use of additional custody staff) depending on their potential to inflict violence, to escape, and for other factors. Other reasons for segregation relate to compliance with legal decrees (see Chapter 3 of the Draft EIR for a discussion of the Thompson Decree). Because of their security risk, condemned inmates must be housed in the most secure facilities and cannot be housed with general population inmates.

More important than this, however, is the legal mandate that all condemned inmates be housed at San Quentin. See page 3-2 of the Draft EIR. As described on pages 3-1 through 3-11, current facilities at SQSP are inadequate to house the 600+ condemned inmates at San Quentin, and that number is projected to continue to grow. Even if CDC experienced a drop in the number of inmates at other state prisons (CDC’s population continues to grow; the January 2005 population totaled more than 160,000 inmates, nearly 200% of design capacity at all State prisons combined), such a drop would not change the fact that condemned inmates are required by law to be housed at San Quentin and that the facilities at San Quentin are inadequate.

**21-3** The comment requests additional consideration of alternative locations. Please refer to Master Response 1.

**21-4** The comment implies that relocation of condemned inmates or the entire SQSP prison population would result in the closure of the SQSP site and suggests that there may be environmental benefits to its closure that were not evaluated in the Draft EIR. Closure of SQSP is not related to the project or any of its objectives, and is not an alternative to building the proposed CIC. In the

event that the condemned inmate population were relocated off-site, CDC would likely backfill the cells vacated by condemned inmates with general population inmates as the space and infrastructure would be available to serve these inmates. This scenario is consistent with CDC practices whenever new prisons come online, and has been appropriately evaluated in Section 7.4 (Off-site Alternative) of the Draft EIR.

- 21-5** The comment states that the Draft EIR should provide a more detailed analysis of potential stormwater impacts, but does not indicate why the analysis in the Draft EIR is not adequate. The Draft EIR analyzes the project's potential stormwater quality impacts to San Francisco Bay. Please refer to Section 4.8 ("Hydrology and Water Quality") of the Draft EIR. Because no specific issues pertaining to the analysis are identified, no further response can be provided.

**David M Johnson**  
94 Golden Hind Passage  
Corte Madera, CA 94925

**Cher Daniels**  
Supervising Environmental Planner  
Department of Corrections  
P.O. Box 942883  
Sacramento, CA 94283-0001  
[SQSPDEIRComments@edaw.com](mailto:SQSPDEIRComments@edaw.com)

Re: San Quentin, Condemned Inmate Complex – Comments to DEIR

Dear Ms. Daniels:

I am a homeowner in the Town of Corte Madera, an architect and planner with more than 20 years experience. I have also served for two terms as a planning commissioner for the Town of Corte Madera. Please accept my comments below as my presentation of grounds for noncompliance and my objection to approval of project.

- 1) Although the EIR may follow the procedural requirements of CEQA. The State and the Lead Agency must recognize a gross violation of the fundamental intent of CEQA. I have included a paragraph from §21001. Additional legislative Intent portion of CEQA: (e) Create and maintain conditions under which man and nature can exist in productive harmony to fulfill the social and economic requirements of present and future generations. The offsetting regional economic, social and cultural benefits of the project alternative (an alternative location) has not been explored or explained.
  - 2) The EIR fails to fully consider the economic issues of the project alternatives that locate the project at another location. The operating and capital costs (and projected net savings) of project alternatives including alternative locations have not been explained.
  - 3) The economic impact of the project in the context of a Long Range Master Plan of the CDC structure, facilities and operations has not been evaluated. The potential for this project to be a costly mistake in a large and greater context is a clear risk to the taxpayers.
  - 4) The EIR does not address the Long Range Plan for the CDC and the potential for the region to face another expansion (for economic and safety) reasons in the future. Given the rate of increase in the population of condemned inmates, what is the strategy for expansion beyond this facility?
  - 5) The EIR has failed to coordinate with local, County and State Agencies as is required by CEQA. The County planning work in progress and the DGS report have not been adequately incorporated into the document. The States own Legislative Analyst's report has not been included in the report and the County Planning efforts has not adequately been addressed.
  - 6) The Lead Agency and the EIR have failed to recognize and coordinate with the regional planning policies as defined by the local governing bodies (Marin County and numerous other agencies) in their participation (alliance) with the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG). What is the net cost to local communities to comply with ABAG residential construction allocations in light of the project and the resulting limitations of land use that would result?
-

**Page 2 (CIC comments to DEIR)**

7) The EIR does not explore or explain economic and other impacts of the structural and life-safety improvements that are required of the existing facilities. What is the real cost to bring the other facilities up to CBC code compliance?

8) The program for the use and the density of use of the existing facilities is not explored or explained in the report. In fact, one alternative suggests that a higher density of inmates is possible for the existing facilities. Is the intention of the CDC to build this project and increase the density of utilization of the existing facilities?

9) The EIR (4.4-b) is inaccurate in the assessment that BCDC policies have been complied with. The project will not minimize the visual impacts to the bay. The visual aspect of the project, in light if BCDC policies has been grossly misstated.

10) The EIR has ignored the Federal Coastal Management Act (CZMA) Coastal Zone Management Act Of 1972 § 1452. Congressional declaration of policy (Section 303), in which Congress finds and declares that it is the national policy-- (1) to preserve, protect, develop, and where possible, to restore or enhance, the resources of the Nation's coastal zone for this and succeeding generations; (2) to encourage and assist the states to exercise effectively their responsibilities in the coastal zone through the development and implementation of management programs to achieve wise use of the land and water resources of the coastal zone, giving full consideration to ecological, cultural, historic, and esthetic values as well as the needs for compatible economic development, which programs should at least provide for--

11) The EIR does not address and the project does not comply with the State General Plan Guidelines, requiring planning bodies to take a „Long Range Perspective% ( \$65300) and requires the State that local planning bodies generate a sustainable General Plan. A proper regional planning and financial analysis of the project alternatives will reveal the offsetting benefits to the County and Regional toward achieving these mandated goals.

12) The EIR has not adequately addressed the possible mitigations to the visual impact of the project. Painting the building is not adequate. The very large unarticulated mass of the project and imposing security fence construction is not mitigated. The project is sited at a visual gateway to the local communities. The economic, social and cultural impacts of the formidable presence of the proposed facility have not been addressed. The project as defined would be an eyesore and a scar in the landscape of Marin.

Please incorporate these thoughts among the comments to be addressed by the Department of Corrections.

Thank you for your attention,



David M. Johnson, AIA  
94 Golden Hind Passage  
Corte Madera, CA 94925  
[Davenkaren@comcast.net](mailto:Davenkaren@comcast.net)

cc: Melissa Gill, Town Council Member  
Carla Condon, Town Council Member  
Jay Tashiro, Town Manager  
Robert Pendoley, Planner

---



## Letter 22

David Johnson

---

- 22-1** The comment cites CEQA legislative intent and states that the Draft EIR did not evaluate an alternate location for the project. In considering the intent of maintaining a harmonious natural, social, and economic condition for present and future generations, it needs to be recognized that San Quentin State Prison dates to 1852, when Marin County's population was 300. The prison has been located on the SQSP property and been in continuous use since, and Marin County has grown up around the prison land to a population of 247,000 as of 2000. The proposed project revises part of SQSP and continues the site's use as a prison. Although the overall legislative intent expressed by the comment is intangible, to the degree it can be applied it would appear the CIC fulfills an important social requirement that SQSP has been fulfilling for generations. Section 7.4, "Off-site Location Alternative," evaluates the environmental impacts associated with relocation of the project off-site. Please also refer to Master Response 1.
- 22-2** The comment states that the Draft EIR did not consider the economic issues of the project alternatives that locate the project at an off-site location. Please refer to Master Response 1 and response to comment 11-3.
- 22-3** The comment states that the Draft EIR does not evaluate the economic impacts of the project in the context of CDC's Long Range Master Plan. Please refer to response to comment 11-3.
- 22-4** It appears that the comment is inquiring about future plans to house condemned inmates once the CIC has reached maximum capacity, although the comment is unclear on this point. The proposed CIC is a long-term housing project that would meet the condemned inmate housing needs of CDC for the foreseeable future. The current condemned inmate population (at the time the NOP for the Draft EIR was circulated) is approximately 600 condemned inmates. The proposed CIC would be able to house a maximum of 1,408 condemned inmates. With an average population increase of approximately 25 condemned inmates per year, the proposed CIC would be expected to meet the housing needs of CDC for 30 years, if the same rate of condemned sentencing and the length of time on death row remain constant.
- Long-range facilities planning typically addresses facility needs in 20- or 30-year increments because this is a reasonable time frame to assess future trends in prison populations and it provides sufficient time to plan, design, and construct new facilities. It is too speculative to determine where or how CDC would house condemned inmates beyond a 30-year time frame because there are many issues that could influence this decision, including changes in legislation (including the death penalty), changes in the rates at which condemned inmates are incarcerated, changes in when sentences are carried out, and changes in the minimum standards for housing inmates. CDC evaluated its infrastructure needs through its Statewide Five-Year Infrastructure Plan. Within this plan, 5-year population projections are determined for each inmate custody level. CDC bases its infrastructure needs on these population projections.
- 22-5** The comment states that CDC has not coordinated with local, county, and state agencies. Please refer to responses to comments 9-6, 9-32, 9-33, and 11-1.
- 22-6** The comment states that CDC had not coordinated with regional agencies. Please refer to responses to comments 9-32, 9-33, and 11-1.

The comment requests information regarding costs for residential construction in light of local limitations. This comment addresses economic issues and does not pertain to the project's environmental impacts. Because no specific issues pertaining to the analysis are identified, no further response can be provided.

- 22-7** The comment asks what the costs would be to bring existing SQSP facilities up to current California Building Code requirements. SQSP has undergone seismic retrofits and other structural upgrades over the past several years; no upgrades at SQSP are needed as a result of the CIC.
- 22-8** The comment appears to ask what the density of the existing SQSP facilities would be. As described in the Section 3.5.3 of the Draft EIR, SQSP currently houses 5,850 inmates but has the design capacity (the physical space available to houses inmates) to house 6,200 inmates. The current budgeted capacity of SQSP is 5,763 inmates. Although CDC intends to operate SQSP, including the CIC, at its current budgeted capacity, population demands could cause CDC to occupy SQSP up to its maximum design capacity of 6,200 inmates, plus the CIC. The Draft EIR evaluated the impacts associated with operating SQSP at both budgeted and maximum design capacities to provide worst-case analysis of potential environmental impacts.
- 22-9** The comment disagrees with the Draft EIR's conclusion that Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC) policies have been complied with. This comment is acknowledged. BCDC has commented on the project without indicating that the analysis regarding BCDC policy consistency presented in the Draft EIR is inaccurate. Please refer to comment letter 2.
- 22-10** The comment states that the Draft EIR did not address the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) of 1972 and specifically cites Section 1452. The project is not subject to federal funding or approval, so the CZMA has no applicability to the project. With regard to coastal areas in San Francisco Bay, the State of California has complied with the requirements of the CZMA through establishment of BCDC. The purpose of BCDC is the protection of San Francisco Bay and enhancement of its shoreline. BCDC adopted the San Francisco Bay Plan (1968), which provides policies to guide future uses of San Francisco Bay and its shoreline. The Draft EIR described the policies of the San Francisco Bay Plan applicable to the project on page 4.4-3 of the Draft EIR.
- 22-11** The comment states that the Draft EIR does not address compliance with State General Plan Guidelines. These guidelines apply to local agencies. CDC, as a state agency is exempt.
- 22-12** The comment states that the Draft EIR does not adequately address mitigation to the visual impacts of the project, but does not provide any specific reasons why proposed mitigation is inadequate. This comment is acknowledged. Please refer to Master Response 2. Because no specific issues pertaining to the analysis are identified, no further response can be provided.

The comment also states that the Draft EIR did not address the economic, social, and cultural impacts of the project. Please refer to response to comment 11-3.

**From:** <Travel31@aol.com>  
**To:** <sqspdeircomments@edaw.com>  
**Date:** Sun, Oct 3, 2004 3:29 PM  
**Subject:** DEIR Comment

Ms. Cher Daniels:

Dear Ms. Daniels:

We in this household are greatly opposed to any expansion of the San Quentin prison. We feel that it is unwarranted, costly and in the wrong place. The prison area is no longer suitable for a correctional facility and would be put to much better use by the community as a transportation hub including housing and other building proper to the Marin environment.

Sincerely,

Ken & Anne Nelson  
31 Surfwood Circle  
San Rafael, CA 94901

---

**Letter 23**

**Ken & Anne Nelson**  
**October 3, 2004**

---

**23-1** The comment expresses opposition to the project. This comment is acknowledged. No further response is necessary as no issues related to the environmental impacts of the project were raised.

Daniels, Cher

---

**From:** Jim Collins [jimmycollins@sbcglobal.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 05, 2004 8:38 PM  
**To:** SQSPDEIRComments@edaw.com  
**Subject:** Condemned Inmate Complex -- No Project Alternative

The CIC is a monstrosity that would never have been funded had our previous governor not been under the control of the prison guards' union and their multi-million dollar campaign contributions. San Quentin is a dirty eye sore and should be torn down. The cost of renovating the main prison to meet current codes exceeds what it would cost to build a new facility in a more appropriate location. The idea of spending \$200M to add on to this decrepit facility is ludicrous.

The proposed CIC is a failure for many reasons, among them:

- 1) It impairs Visual Resources--The glare from the proposed klieg lights will ruin the atmosphere at night for nearby residences and businesses.
- 2) It impairs Air Quality--An additional 400+ condemned inmates will require more guards and more supplies, creating more car and truck traffic and the attendant pollution.
- 3) It impairs local Hydrology and Water Quality--The prison's sewage facilities are antiquated, creating a hazard to the fragile marshlands that surround it. Expanding the prison will exacerbate this problem.
- 4) It negatively impacts local Population and Housing--This location is a transportation hub. It lends itself to high density housing, as evidenced by Larkspur Landing. At the hub of mass transit in Marin County, this site should be converted to much needed housing for local and commuting workers.
- 5) It is a terrible example of Land Use and Planning--Dropping \$200M to improve an obsolete facility is the most reckless example of our state government's fiscal irresponsibility. The prison has no place in this prime location. This land use is terrible. The state should be planning a new prison somewhere else where the land is not as valuable and the local residents can benefit from the jobs that would be created.

While the state is straddled by the medieval death penalty and may require a CIC, San Quentin is absolutely the wrong place to put it. The state government should examine its conscience and either not build it or find a better location.

Jim Collins  
105 Lakeside Drive  
Corte Madera, CA 94925  
415.945.3292  
[jimmycollins@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jimmycollins@sbcglobal.net)

**Letter 24**

**Jim Collins**  
**October 5, 2004**

---

- 24-1** The comment expresses opposition to the project and summarizes environmental concerns, but does not specifically address the contents of the Draft EIR. This comment is acknowledged. No further response is possible as specific issues related to the adequacy of the Draft EIR were not raised.

**From:** <Ldmonterey@aol.com>  
**To:** <SQSPDEIRComments@edaw.com>  
**Date:** Fri, Oct 22, 2004 11:14 PM  
**Subject:** New Building construction

What consideration for a new concept for prisoners to live honorably while being incarcerated. Housing to be given as a more homelike environment. Give the men their dignity back. Allow these brilliant men to do office work and a chance to enrich California.

**CC:** <Ldmonterey@aol.com>

---

**Letter 25**

**Ldmonterey@aol.com**  
**October 22, 2004**

---

**25-1** The comment provides commentary regarding housing inmates. This comment is not relevant to the impacts of the project. No further response is necessary as no issues related to the environmental impacts of the project were raised.



**From:** "Hickey, John A." <JHickey@mofo.com>  
**To:** <SQSPDEIRComments@edaw.com>  
**Date:** Mon, Oct 25, 2004 6:39 PM  
**Subject:** San Quentin State Prison Condemned Inmate Complex

Ms. Cher Daniels  
Supervising Environmental Planner  
California Department of Corrections  
Facilities Management Division

Dear Ms. Daniels,

I have been unable to locate a copy of the draft environmental impact report for the San Quentin State Prison Condemned Inmate Complex (SCH Number: 2003122003) on the Department of Corrections' Internet site. Please would you tell me where I can find the report on the Department's Internet site, or, if the report is not posted on the Department's Internet site, please would you send a copy of the report to me in electronic form at [jhickey@mofo.com](mailto:jhickey@mofo.com).

If you have questions regarding my request, please contact me at [jhickey@mofo.com](mailto:jhickey@mofo.com) or refer to section 6253.9 of the Government Code or section 21082.1(c)(4) of the Public Resources Code.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

John Hickey

=====

This message contains information which may be confidential and privileged. Unless you are the addressee (or authorized to receive for the addressee), you may not use, copy or disclose to anyone the message or any information contained in the message. If you have received the message in error, please advise the sender by reply e-mail @mofo.com, and delete the message. Thank you very much.

=====

**Letter 26**

**John Hickey**  
**October 25, 2004**

---

- 26-1** The comment states that they were unable to locate a copy of the Draft EIR and requested assistance. Response providing direction to the appropriate web page on CDC's website was provided on November 1, 2004. No further response is necessary as no issues related to the environmental impacts of the project were raised.

**Lila Anderson Hillard  
99 Via La Brisa  
Larkspur, CA 94939  
415-927-1414  
415-927-1411 FAX  
[lilahillard@aol.com](mailto:lilahillard@aol.com)**

October 25, 2004

Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger,  
Governor of California  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger,

I am one of your early supporters and a member of your election website. I am also a resident of Larkspur, California where San Quentin Prison is located.

With the encouragement of Grey Davis and John Burton and the local trial attorneys, there was a plan to expand the Death Row on the grounds of San Quentin. The Department of Corrections is proceeding with the initial stages of passing a \$220 million bond issue to expand the prison facilities.

**This proposed plan is an enormous waste of taxpayers' money and is vehemently opposed by local residents like myself. Our local leaders, Supervisor Steve Kinsey and Assemblyman Joe Nation, have been vocally critical of this proposed plan. The primary problem is that it is an enormous waste of our resources and an enormous cost to the taxpayers. This prison site is more expensive to maintain due to the extra labor costs involved with employing prison officials and the old facilities. I understand that at the present time the state pays over \$10 million a year just to have employees who live in the central part of the state work at this prison site. This just does not make sense to commit scarce state resources to a site that is inefficient. It makes much more sense to expand a prison in the central valley, in a community that wants its economic benefits and welcomes the local expansion of employment opportunities. Why not take a poll of localities in the Central Valley with existing prison sites to see which area would welcome this facility with open arms? This was never done prior to this ill-conceived plan that is progressing forward.**

**Secondly this is perhaps the most valuable and premier bay side property owned by the state of California. There could be a huge financial windfall for the State of California by selling this property to private investors that could probably at least pay for the expansion of this facility at some other location. Why construct a huge windowless building on this site for the benefit of prisoners who have committed heinous crimes against our society, rather than utilize this pristine property for the benefit of law-abiding citizens? The San Quentin site is the perfect location to have a major transportation hub for the entire Bay area, with light rail trains from**

---

Sonoma funneling passengers on a ferry directly to San Francisco. As you are probably aware, the 101-580 juncture is one of the most congested traffic areas in the state, and this public transit plan is the way to solve this huge local issue.

I implore you to stop this forward momentum by the Department of Corrections to expand San Quentin and to re-evaluate this proposal from a purely economic standpoint. By doing so, you would find that it makes better sense to relocate the entire prison facility to another cheaper location.

Thank you in advance for your looking into this matter. I continue to be one of your staunchest supporters, but I feel that this misguided and inefficient Gray Davis/John Burton proposal is the perfect issue for you to take a stand against. There should not be an expansion of San Quentin or even a continuation of San Quentin. It makes no economic or business sense to have an aged and expensive prison expanded which is located in a community where no one in the local community actually works at the facility because of the high price of housing.

Your help with this crucial issue will endear you to the many local residents who are against this proposal. In addition, your help to create a transit center for the entire Bay Area on this site instead would prove to be an incredible legacy of your administration.

Sincerely,

  
Lila Anderson Hillard

**Letter 27**

**Lila Anderson Hillard**  
**October 25, 2004**

---

- 27-1** The comment expresses opposition to the project and suggests instead siting the project in the Central Valley. This comment is acknowledged. No further response is necessary as no issues related to the environmental impacts of the project were raised. Also, please see Master Response 1.

**From:** "Verreos" <tony@verreos.com>  
**To:** <SQSPDEIRComments@edaw.com>  
**Date:** Wed, Oct 27, 2004 9:56 AM  
**Subject:** Q

Dear Ms. Daniels:

I understand the workings of CDC and Sacramento. It is a rare exception when public comment, or common sense will prevail over the inertia of entrenched special interests, but there's always hope.

Somewhere between the medieval concept of dirty dungeons and torture, and the nobel concept of fair and respectful treatment, justice got lost. Now we have a system that is a ever growing monster, feeding an elitist class of prison employees, and acting as if they all exist to serve a client base of inmates rather than the general population that has locked these people up out of reaction to their crimes, and fear for our safety. Why any inmates deserve more than the most basic food, shelter, and medical treatment is beyond me. Who complains about the distance visitors, or lawyers have to travel to see inmates in Pelican Bay, or Folsom, or any other facilities in state or Federal out of state? In any case, there is no obligation for the state to make incarceration convenient. The state knows that wherever a facility is built, it will spawn a local support system to allow for all of the needs and services of the prison employees as well as the inmates. Having a facility such as San Quentin in Marin made no sence in 1885, but they either couldn't see 100 years ahead, or probably just didn't care. The only true advantage to the current site is that it already exists. Any new site has to get past the not in my back yard barrier. What's the point of the government owning most of our state land if it won't use the least desirable land in the most remote locations to house our most antisocial criminals?

It's amazing to hear stories of prison guards being spat on, and having feces thrown at them etc. by inmates. Those of us who have never been in there, and never want to go there, have a hard time understanding why certain things are as they are; prisoners have TV, radio, cigarettes, exercise equipment (we sure don't want them to be meek or weak if they are released), and apparently guards smuggle drugs for them, or else the security is rediculous! Which is it? I'm sure it would cost \$3mill, or \$4mill to have plexiglass installed on cells to at least reduce the incidence of inmates throwing things at the guards. When they're in close quarters, a bag over their head may be the best solution.

I don't feel sorry for the people of Marin, their politicians, realtors, investors, or the CDC, but the Q affects the whole S.F. Bay Area in a negative way. If it were to go away, the people who'd suffer most are the employees who work there, and that's what everyone else has had to deal with when a big private sector employer moves, cuts back, or goes under.

---

Anthony Verreos  
San Francisco

**\*\*\* PRIVACY NOTICE/WARNING TO RECIPIENT \*\*\***

The information contained in this message is proprietary, confidential, and is not intended for public distribution, dissemination, copying, or other non authorized use which is strictly prohibited. If you have received this email in error, please notify us immediately, and destroy all copies in your possession.

---

**Letter 28**

**Anthony Verreos**  
**October 27, 2004**

---

- 28-1** The comment provides commentary on the SQSP prison system. This comment is acknowledged. No further response is necessary as no issues related to the environmental impacts of the project were raised.



NOV 1 - 2004

Mr. Goerge Sifuentes  
Deputy Director  
Facilities Management Division  
California Dept. of Corrections  
P.O. Box 942883  
Sacramento, CA 94283

October 27, 2004

Subject: San Quentin Prison—  
Proposed expansion of Death Row.

Dear Mr. Sifuentes:

This letter is from a lifelong resident of Larkspur, Marin County, who hopes that you and the Department of Corrections (CDC) will respectfully disregard the advice of purported Marin County leaders who urge that Death Row not be reconstructed at San Quentin Prison.

Unfortunately I could not attend the 10/27 public information session at Marin Civic Center, due to the unavailability of timely bus transit from my downtown San Francisco job; hence this letter.

As a state employee myself (Dept. of Insurance), I applaud the efforts of CDC to ascertain the wishes of local residents and leaders before proceeding. In this case, however, I urge you to take with a large grain of salt the suggestions of certain local officials and real estate interests that the expansion of Death Row is objectionable.

There are times in Marin County history, in my observation over 51 years, when the positions of the putative community leadership and the considered opinions of the community itself may pointedly diverge. A prominent example from the 60's was the massive Marincello 'new town' development proposed for Marin Headlands, that was pushed by Marin's then-leaders, but panned by the the community when they became aware of it, ultimately resulting in public acquisition and preservation of the Headlands.

A similar divergence could develop in this case, as people become aware of the real alternative if Death Row is not allowed to reconstruct, and prison closure becomes probable: A massive Marincello-like 'new town,' that will enrich the real estate interests, and their political supporters, who oppose Death Row reconstruction, but will enmesh the rest of us in traffic and congestion. When people learn of this prospect, they will likely support reconstruction, at least as the "lesser of two evils."

Presently many Marinites, I believe, would like to see Death Row moved elsewhere, and would also like to see the prison close. In part that may reflect the 'out of sight out of mind' approach towards life's less pleasant aspects. But mainly it is because they have a fuzzy notion or hope that that the vacated land will be turned into open space or, at most, large homes hidden in verdant treescape, as seen in other affluent Marin communities.

---

Mr. Geo. Sifuentes  
P.2.

Alas, you and I and most other realistic people, and certainly the developers and politicians opposing reconstruction, know that this is not likely to happen. The cash-strapped State will probably sell the property to the highest private bidder. If that occurs, the ultimate result will likely be the horrendous, high-density mini-Manhattan development proposal envisioned in plans prepared by Marin's Planning Department, with the prompting of certain Marin politicians and their patrons. An anomalous coalition of utopian dreamers and mercenary schemers, small but influential, has coalesced in support of this prospect.

True, few people are fully aware of this alternative at present. But, in my experience, when they do learn of it, Death Row reconstruction looks much better by comparison, and they are inclined to support it, in light of the alternative.

Certainly, reconstruction is the alternative least likely to adversely impact the surrounding community in terms of traffic, additional infrastructure needs, continuing costs, and visual impact; and probably too in terms of environmental impact, if the reconstruction is sensitively sited and built, and employs all practicable water-conservation measures.

Moreover, the long-term economic savings of having Death Row near to the state attorneys and agencies who prosecute and (mainly) defend death penalty cases, and to the courts that decide them, should not be underestimated.

Further, Marin's large coterie of self-conceived social progressives should surely realize, on reflection, that regardless of one's view of Death Row or the death penalty, both will likely be with us for a long time, and thus it is both compassionate and realistic to situate the condemned inmates' facility where it can best accommodate such humane attributes as accessibility to family, availability of educational resources and volunteers, and a prison employee ethnic mix which is closer to that of the inmates.

Given these benefits, why do community leaders and interests raise so many objections to reconstruction? Without belaboring the point, or casting too many aspersions, I fear that many of them are not altogether objective. The potential profits from building a new town in place of the prison are too alluring. Death Row reconstruction, by contrast, has limited profit potential. The aptly-acronymed Marin Association of Realtors ("MAR"), which takes such an active role in this issue, may have members who would presumably stand to profit handsomely if Point San Quentin were to be marred with a Marincello-like mini-Manhattan. Certainly, MAR is not otherwise known for significant interest in prison reform.

---

Mr. Geo. Sifuentes  
P. 3.

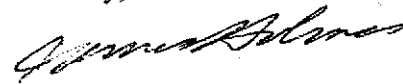
As against these vocal, albeit ostensibly local, interests, I ask that you and the CDC follow your instincts, and stand firm for not only the best interests of the prison system and its inmates and employees, but also for those of the ordinary citizens of Marin. And in so doing, I ask that you keep in mind, and continually communicate to open-minded interested observers, two key points.

First, from the standpoint of environmental impact, no development on Point San Quentin is less likely to increase traffic and congestion than a development whose residents are largely locked up.

And second, as reflective Marinites should surely realize, if Death Row is not reconstructed at San Quentin, and it goes elsewhere, and San Quentin is closed, then the criminal convicts may be gone, but prisoners will still remain. They will be we Marinites, imprisoned in our cars, on Highway 101 and Sir Frances Drake, condemned to a life sentence of traffic jams.

Thank you for considering these comments. If additional explanation or information is needed, please contact me at (415) 924-1402 or the address below.

Sincerely,



James W. Holmes  
217 Madrone Ave.  
Larkspur, CA 94939

**Letter 29**

**James Holmes**  
**October 27, 2004**

---

**29-1** The comment provides commentary and expresses support for the project. This comment is acknowledged. No further response is necessary as no issues related to the environmental impacts of the project were raised.

Oct. 27, 2009

Written Comments:

Cher Daniels,

Move death row to Mojave desert like they did too the Japanese people during the second world war. Building and housing ~~inmates~~ condemned inmates would be exceptionally fine.

This would solve & save money instead of improving on site.

Electrified fence would be appropriate around death row in the Mojave Desert for 535,000 sq feet proposed.

Thank you for listening.

From victims of condemned criminals

John Gutierrez

P.S. great idea to bring up!!

**Letter 30**

**John Gutierrez**  
**October 27, 2004**

---

- 30-1** The comment suggests that SQSP be moved to the Mojave Desert. Please refer to Master Response 1. No further response is necessary as no issues related to the environmental impacts of the project were raised.